

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A telescopic construction comprising:

an outer member;

an inner member slidably fitting in the outer member; and

a shear ring mounted on at least either an inner circumferential surface of the outer

member or an outer circumferential surface of the inner member, the shearing ring comprising a metallic ring and a resin ring made of synthetic resin.

wherein the metallic ring fits on one of an outer circumferential side and an inner circumferential side of the resin ring.

wherein a shear permissive projection is provided on the shear ring,

wherein a groove is provided in at least either the inner circumferential surface of the outer member or the outer circumferential surface of the inner member; and

wherein the shear permissive projection is in engagement with the groove.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (original): The telescopic construction as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the shear ring is divided in a circumferential direction thereof.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An automotive steering column apparatus
comprising:

an inner column rotatably supporting a steering shaft;

an outer column holding the inner column while rotatably embracing the inner column;

a vehicle body side bracket having a vehicle body mount portion which can be mounted
on a vehicle body and a pair of left and right facing flat plate portions which extend substantially
vertically ~~and disposed in such a manner as to surround the outer column on opposite sides of the~~
outer column, respectively;

a clamping mechanism for changing a width of the pair of facing flat plate portions and
changing a width of an inner circumferential surface of the outer column in connection with a
change in the width of the pair of facing flat portions; and

a shear ring mounted on at least either the inner circumferential surface of the outer
column or an outer circumferential surface of the inner column, the shearing ring comprising a
metallic ring and a resin ring made of synthetic resin,

wherein the metallic ring fits on one of an outer circumferential side and an inner
circumferential side of the resin ring,

wherein a shear permissive projection is provided on the shear ring,

wherein a groove is formed in at least either the inner circumferential surface of the outer
column or the outer circumferential surface of the inner column, and

wherein the shear permissive projection is in engagement with the groove.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (original): The automotive steering column apparatus as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the shear ring is divided in a circumferential direction thereof.